

ADDRESS

BY

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DELIVERED BEFORE THE INDIAN SOCIETY,

ON

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

AND

THE MALAY PENINSULA.



IN the immediate vicinity of our East Indian possessions lie the Straits Settlements, an English Crown Colony, of which Singapore and Penang are the chief ports. These are often touched at by passing Civil Servants, Officers and other Dutchmen on their way to Holland, and also on the way to or from Acheen or the East Coast of Sumatra. They see then in a cursory way something of these English trading places, but in general Dutchmen still know very little of this Colony, and of the adjacent Malay Peninsula. I was astonished to see how little of the literature that exists on this subject is to be found in Holland. If the contents of the library of this Society disappointed me in this respect, and those of the Library of the "Koninklijk Instituut voor taal-land-en volkenkunde van Nederlandsch-Indie," I was still more disappointed, when I came to enquire in the Royal Library, as to what was to be found of this part of the world upon this subject.

And yet these regions should inspire us with especial interest not only as belonging to our closest neighbours, but also because they belong to a world-nation, to the first Colonial power, and are governed in an entirely different way to our possessions.

The influence that for years has spread of its own accord and in a natural way from there to our Colonies, ought not to be under-estimated. To enquire into these influences, to put to a certain extent on a safe footing the relations between both Colonies, is naturally the delicate task of the Dutch Consular Officials in Singapore and Penang, who are, as it were, our advance guards there. For some years I have been honoured with this trust in Penang.

For this reason, I wish this evening, at the solicitation of your Committee, to draw your attention to this interesting part of the English transmarine possessions, in the hope that this lecture may contribute in some degree to increase your interest in these regions, and may perhaps induce you to make a closer investigation into the present condition of things prevailing in the Straits Settlements and in the Malay Peninsula.

I would ask your indulgence for any deficiencies and shortcomings which may be found in this contribution, which had to be compiled from scattered notes.

The Malay Peninsula, formerly called the Malacca Peninsula, or simply Malacca, by which is understood the portion of Further India to the South of the Isthmus of Krah, is washed on the West by the Gulf of Bengal and the Straits of Malacca, and on the East by the Chinese Sea and the Gulf of Siam. It is 600 English miles long, near Krah 40 miles broad, and further down averages 150 English miles in breadth, giving an area of about 75,000 English square miles, of which 40,000 are under Siam, and 35,000 under England, with a population of about one-and-a-half million souls. To Siam belong, on the West Coast, Kedah with Perlis and Situl, Junk Ceylon with Tongkah, Renong with Trang and Krah, and, on the East Coast, Tringganu, Kelantan, Patani, Singgora and Ligor.

We shall leave these undiscussed, so that we can confine ourselves exclusively to the English portion.

The mountain ranges that run through the whole length of the Peninsula are continuations of the mountain land of Further India, chiefly of granite formation, not subject to volcanic influences, and varying in height from 4 to 12 thousand feet. The highest peaks are in Kedah, Perak and Tringganu. These mountain ranges are bordered on both sides by alluvial plains from 10 to 30 English miles broad, broader as a rule on the West than on the East Coast. The hills are covered with rich forests, in which the wild tribes that live from the chase lead a wandering life; the plains, with their fertile soil and rich tropical cultivation, are inhabited by the more stationary population. The wild tribes (Negritos), which are but scanty in numbers, are called *Sakais* North of the Perak River, and South of that *Semangs*; older Malay hill-dwellers are distinguished as *Orang Benua*. The stationary population consists in the North to the 8th degree North latitude of pure Siamese, between the 7th and 8th degree of latitude they are called *Samsams*, a mixture of Siamese and Malays, and South of that the population is Malay. In addition, there are to be found settlements of aliens, chiefly Chinese, Klings and Arabs.

Numerous but necessarily small streams, flow from the mountains to both coasts. The Perak and Pahang Rivers are the most considerable and the most navigable. They have more value for drainage and irrigation purposes than for purposes of communication, and provide the plains with a plentiful supply of water. The mouths of the rivers are, on both coasts, nearly everywhere shallow, and blocked by sand and mud banks. Those on the East coast are, during the whole of the East monsoon, closed to navigation, but on the West coast are generally well protected, and only now and then rendered less secure by heavy short squalls known as "Sumatras." Towards the North, on both coasts, there are numerous coral reefs and islands.

The soil is rich in minerals, especially tin, gold, silver,

lead, etc. The land is adapted to nearly every kind of tropical cultivation. In the animal kingdom are to be found the rhinoceros, the tapir, the elephant, the tiger, the bison, the wild bull, apes, snakes, etc. Further, a rich variety of birds, fish and splendid butterflies is to be found.

The climate is warm and damp, especially on the South, but the nights are very cool. The dry weather of the North-East monsoon prevails from the middle of October to the middle of April, the wet weather of the South-West monsoon during the rest of the year.

The digging of a ship canal through the Isthmus of Krah has been for some years the subject of enquiry and discussion, and was especially a favourite idea of the French. The journey from Europe to Siam and China would thus be shortened by 660 miles. The plan that is now in view of a railway connection between Penang and Singgora is, on the other hand, more in accordance with English ideas.

The Malay Peninsula, long before Europeans came there, was, like many other countries in Eastern Asia and many islands in the East Indian Archipelago, tributary to China to a certain extent. In spite of the fact that its coasts and harbours were from the earliest times visited by navigators and traders, and subsequent to the voyages of discovery by Europeans, more especially by Spaniards, Portuguese, English and Dutch; in spite of the fact that it has repeatedly been the scene of sanguinary conflicts between these nations, as well as between Javanese, Malays, Siamese and Achinese; in spite of the fact that we Dutch for two and a half centuries were in almost unbroken possession of Malacca, and maintained trading relations with the surrounding States of Selangor, Perak, Kedah, Johor, Junk Ceylon, Patani, Tringganu and Kelantan, where we had factories for shorter or longer periods—in spite of all this, it remained till our own times pretty well a *terra incognita*.

In his treatise on Malacca in 1795, the English Admiral MAINWARING says:—"Malacca, although excellently situated "and for more than 250 years in the hands of Europeans,

“is, outside the town, desert and uncultivated, as if there had never been a settlement there. This is to be attributed to the narrow policy of the Dutch at Batavia, who make it their duty to concentrate everything in Java, and to make everything dependent upon it.”

It was under the English that all further development of this portion of the East took place. We have contributed almost nothing to this, and confined ourselves almost exclusively to the town of Malacca, where all our Government and trading influence in that district were concentrated. In Malacca itself there was no further extension than was absolutely necessary, and indeed, on many occasions, the interests of Malacca were sacrificed to those of Java. Tin, pepper, and also gold were already then the most considerable articles of export, and our efforts were directed to obtain the monopoly of these in every way. Achinese influence was at first great on the Peninsula, so that it was even necessary to obtain the sanction of the Sultan of Acheen to trade either with Perak or Kedah. The rôle which we played here was not always a brilliant one, as may be seen from an article entitled “The Dutch in Perak,” written, for the Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, by the present Acting Governor of the Straits Settlements, Mr. W. E. MAXWELL.

The proportion of English trade at this period in these parts was small, although they, the indefatigable rivals of the Dutch, also had their factories in many places. Indeed, India took up nearly all their attention, just as Java and the Moluccas did with us.

Mr. SKINNER writes as follows in his “British Connections with Malaya” (a name first given, a short time ago, on the founding of the above-mentioned Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, to the whole of the countries where Malay or one of its related dialects is spoken, viz., the Malay Peninsula from Tenasserim and the great India Archipelago, from Sumatra to New Guinea):—“The contact of the English with this part of the world may be divided into “three periods—

"I.—That of individual trade, 1602-1684.

"II.—That of the trade of the East India Company, 1684-1762.

"III.—That of political and military interference, 1762 "till now."

Thus this contact was of a purely commercial character till 1762, when the consolidation of the position of the English in British India, and circumstances in Europe, led them to pay more attention to Eastern lands, and politics came more into the front.

The first expedition of the English against Manila took place in 1763. Their fleet had stopped at Penang, and they were struck with the importance of the position of that place. This expedition ended with the occupation of the island of Balambangan, opposite Marudu Bay in North Borneo. It was abandoned again in 1804, on account of its unhealthiness. The island of Labuan was then occupied, but was almost immediately abandoned, and in 1846 was again taken possession of.

The desirability of obtaining some fixed place in or near the Straits of Malacca was the more evident from the circumstance that the trading fortresses in Sumatra, of which Bencoolen, raised in 1763 to an independent Presidency, was the capital, were less suited for that purpose. Acheen was chosen, but the negotiations with the Sultan of that kingdom led to no satisfactory result. Now, FRANCIS LIGHT, of the British India Marine, who was acquainted with the trade of Kedah, came with the proposal to choose for this the island of Penang, which was to be acquired by a payment to the Sultan of Kedah. It was then a desert, uncultivated, almost uninhabited island, and was only touched at by ships to take water or to wait for good weather. The first Englishman whom we know to have done this was Captain LANCASTER of the *Bonaventura*, who visited Penang in 1592, and the first Dutchman was CORNELIS MATELIEF, who went there in 1607.

The East India Company agreed to LIGHT's proposal, and in August, 1786, took formal possession of Penang, in consideration of the payment of a fixed annual sum to the Sul-

tan of Kedah. Pulau Pinang was christened Prince of Wales' Island, and the Settlement of the English George Town, but up till the present day it has been called Penang. In 1791, a stretch of land, now Province Wellesley, or simply the Province, on the mainland just opposite Penang, was purchased from the Sultan of Kedah, and in 1823 was considerably extended. The Straits Government pays up till the present time to him a rent or hire of from 10,000 to 12,000 dollars.

For political reasons, the British Government did everything in its power to further British influence in these parts, and Penang was the starting point for several expeditions during the great war. In 1795, Malacca was taken from us from there, and other possessions on the West coast of Sumatra came into the hands of the English. In 1797-98, a second expedition against Manila was prepared. The later expeditions against Java and the Moluccas were also got together and prepared in Penang.

Penang was at first governed in a very irregular way by commercial superintendents. In 1796, it was established as a Penal Settlement for Indian convicts, and remained so till 1857, the year of the Indian Mutiny. In 1800, it was put under a Lieutenant-Governor, and in 1805 was promoted to be a Presidency, but still placed under the East India Company in Bengal.

It is natural that Penang, through one thing and another, should become a place of importance as a free port. Its trade had at once become noticeable as a trading centre for the neighbouring coasts, and it soon not only took the place of Malacca, but the merchants from still more distant places, came to trade in free Penang.

Malacca was given back to us by the English in 1818, after they had made agreements with Perak and other States, which made it impossible for us to regain or improve our former position. In 1825, it was given over to them by us for good, but has remained what it still is, a place of small commercial importance with only limited local sources of trade and cultivation.

From the beginning, the object and aim of the English in these parts was the overthrow of the trade monopoly of the Dutch, and this was joined to a hatred born of jealousy or ignorance, and a contempt which shows itself in almost all writings of this period. Thus one may read the following, in a letter of Sir FRANCIS LIGHT, in 1787, from Penang:—"I suspected the Dutch would throw obstacles in my way. The contempt and derision however with which they treat this place and the mean dirty acts they use would dishonour any but a Dutchman."

As a consequence of the so-called free-trade commercial policy, which however, as has been observed before, was dictated by political considerations, the commercial treaties with Perak and Selangor were concluded in 1818. England obtained for herself, by these, the position of the most-favoured nation, and thus prevented the granting of monopolies or favours to others. In 1819, Singapore was founded by RAFFLES, after he had been obliged to give back to us Java and the other Dutch possessions. This island, on which the town of Singapore stood in the twelfth century, he had purchased from Johor, which, at the same time, came under English influence and has remained so since. In 1820, a sort of treaty was made with Acheen, by which England stipulated or got the right to place a Resident in Acheen, and to exclude other European nations from establishing a Settlement there. The English, however, have never carried this treaty out. In 1826, the independence of Perak, which had been to a certain extent tributary to Siam, was recognised by treaty, and protection against Siam and Selangor was guaranteed. The English obtained by it the right to establish a Settlement on the island Pangkor, which we had previously repeatedly occupied. The remains of this occupation—kept in repair by the English—are to be seen at the present day.

In all this, the chief aim of the English was the weakening of Dutch interests, and the breaking up of their monopoly system—an aim that was pursued by RAFFLES with indefatigable zeal, and was finally crowned with wonderful

success, although he often had to meet obstruction and misunderstandings even from his own countrymen. The founding of Singapore is a proof of this enterprising spirit and clear sight. It took place in opposition to instructions from Bengal, and completed the downfall of Malacca, which, lying between Penang and Singapore, lost its value and importance. It also neutralized to some extent the surrender of Java to us, an action that, to this day, no Englishman can remember without vexation and remorse. In a letter in the Raffles Museum in Singapore, we read the following on this subject:—"Not our interests alone have suffered by 'this unexpected return (of the Dutch to Java) but those of 'humanity and civilization suffer more deeply. They (the Dutch) 'ought to have had some common feeling for humanity, some object in view beyond the cold calculations of profit and loss" etc.

First Singapore came under the Presidency of Bencoolen; in 1823 it came with Penang under the Government of Bengal, and in 1825 Penang, Singapore and Malacca were united as a Presidency with Penang as capital, until 1837, when Singapore, which had developed very rapidly, was appointed the seat of Government as it now is.

However, it was not till 50 years after the English had become masters of the Straits of Malacca that they busied themselves directly with the affairs of the Peninsula. Different forms of Government were in use during this interval until 1st April, 1867, when the three Settlements, under the name of the Straits Settlements, were separated from British India, and as a Crown Colony, were brought under the direct authority of the mothercountry.

Although during this time the local Government attempted on several occasions to extend its jurisdiction, these plans never met with the sanction or approval of the Home Government, and accordingly the policy of non-intervention in the Malay Peninsula was observed. The so-called Naning War, which ended in an extension of the territory of Malacca, formed an exception to this. Naning, one of the Negri Sembilan hereafter mentioned and a real nest of robbers, was then incorporated with Malacca. In view of the fact that the British India Government had to pay the cost of this, and had always, even in ordinary circumstances, to lend the three Settlements pecuniary support, the expenses were limited to what was strictly necessary, and these possessions were left to themselves "to develop on their own resources." Thus the development of Penang and Singapore as trade centres became almost

the only aim. In Calcutta, very little was known of this portion of the globe. In 1837, an official wrote of them to his chief as follows:—"These details may appear petty to your Lordship, but "then everything connected with these States is petty, except their "annual surplus cost to the Government of India."

Although it falls outside the proper province of what concerns the Straits Settlements, I must add the following, as it is altogether in accordance with the later programme of the English in this part of the globe. In 1842 JAMES BROOKE took possession of Sarawak and in 1846, Labuan was occupied by the English. There were incessant attempts made by individuals from the Straits to establish themselves in different points in our territory, just as JAMES BROOKE did in Sarawak, especially on the East Coast of Sumatra. These proceedings gave rise to much trouble, and on several occasions we were obliged to drive these fortune hunters by force from there. They frequently used as a pretext their ignorance of the boundaries of Acheen.

A new period begun in the history of these places with the establishment of the Straits Settlements as a Crown Colony. We have chosen this evening as a subject for further discussion the remarkable progress which this Colony has enjoyed in the last years, by which it has become the most flourishing of all the English Crown Colonies, and the almost entirely peaceful growth of its influence upon the Malay Peninsula.

Let us now pass over the five years before the Straits Government interfered actively and formally with the affairs of the Independent Native States, and the policy of non-intervention made way for that of "active advice, assistance and control."

The occasion for this was given by the piracies along the coast, the general insecurity in which British subjects and British interests were placed, the state of anarchy, the wars between chiefs, the oppression, slavery, bondage, and poverty to which the people were a prey. Attacks upon vessels under the British flag occurred, and even upon the boats belonging to men-of-war, and upon British Settlements.

The knowledge that existed regarding the Malay Peninsula was then very small. The issue of the Journal of the Indian Archipelago had contributed somewhat to spread this knowledge, although this as well as other writings of this period dealt chiefly with our possessions, but after this publication ceased, nothing more was done during 20 years. The present Resident Councillor

of Penang could say with truth in his address before the Royal Asiatic Society "a long night has since settled down upon the "Straits lasting some 20 years." The Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society has since done a great deal to spread knowledge in this direction. A change in the right direction was due to the initiative of Sir ANDREW CLARKE, who still could speak of "our "absolute ignorance of geographical and physical features of those "countries."

Meanwhile it is very apparent that the English themselves troubled very little, after the time of RAFFLES, about "humanity and civilisation," about which he was so hard upon us, and that with them, too, "trade and commerce" were the only "objects in view."

When we look at the map of the Malay Peninsula, we see between Province Wellesley (opposite Penang) and Malacca, Perak first, with a coast line of 80, then Selangor with a coast line of 120 English miles, and the little State of Sungei Ujong with Jelebu. Further inland, bordering Malacca, are the so-called Negri Sembilan, now consisting of six States. Between Malacca and Singapore lies Johor, with a coast line of 120 miles (English), and further up the East coast is Pahang. Under Siam, to the North of the Province is Kedah, with several other small States: and North of Pahang are Kelantan, Tringganu and Patani. Different agreements with England have given Tringganu, Kelantan and Kedah certain rights to British protection.

The state of insecurity mentioned before resulted in several punitive expeditions by men-of-war, but this led to no permanent improvement. In 1871, on account of piracies and other acts of violence, the expedition from Langat took place, and in 1872 and 1873, those at other places on the Jugra River in Selangor. In five large districts, of which it then consisted, great discord, civil war, and anarchy reigned. All of these districts considered themselves independent. The *hasil* was here, in general, the origin of disputes. The same condition of things prevailed in Sungei Ujong which was also mixed up in these quarrels, and was, in addition continually at war with Rembau. Both of these States border upon the territory of Malacca. Linggi was also in a state of insecurity; also the more inland States, particularly Jelebu, Sri Menanti and Muar, were constantly in a state of arms against one another. All of these received criminal refugees and vagabonds from the Straits, and only gave them up on payment of ransom

The demands of British subjects upon their Chiefs met with no attention. The then Governor of the Straits, Sir HARRY ORD, wrote in November, 1872:—"If persons, knowing the risk they run owing "to the disturbed state of these countries, choose to hazard their "lives and property for the sake of the large profits which accompany successful trading, they must not expect the British Government to be answerable if their speculations prove unsuccessful." Things were as we found them in Acheen, and these little States also provided themselves with weapons and even with combatants from the neighbouring Settlements.

The Chinese tin-miners in Perak, who had immigrated by thousands to different parts of the Peninsula, were especially the cause of great disorder; their tribes or *kongsis* had been for years in conflict with one another, with varying success, over the question of the possession of the tin mines. The Prince of Perak and his Chieftains had taken sides in the matter; with them the question was who should appropriate the export duties. Thus the Mantri of Larut, then the richest tin district, where about 40,000 Chinese of the Go Kwan tribe lived, had declared himself, in 1871, in favour of these, and, by appropriating the rich revenues, had been able to make himself independent of the Sultan, who, in the interior had allied himself with the more warlike Si Kwans. Battles in which, it is said, that more than 3,000 Go Kwans perished, brought the Si Kwans into Larut; they took possession of the forts and of the river; robbery, murder and assassination became the order of the day, and a general cessation of business and flight of population ensued. The Mantri who, among others, had English Officers in his service, was a prisoner in his own country and found himself shut in on all sides at Kotah, the then Capital.

When these Si Kwans had been insolent enough to extend their devastations and plunderings beyond Perak, and even in Penang and its harbour attacks and *kongsi* fights occurred, in 1873, their fortifications were taken and destroyed by the English under Captain WOOLCOMBE, and the Mantri came again into possession of his river.

Thanks to the influence of the Straits Government, the only orderly State being situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Singapore was Johor. But even here disputes as to boundaries, &c. could not be altogether prevented.

There was thus every inducement for the Governor, Sir ANDREW CLARKE, to interfere and to endeavour to put an end once and for

all to this unsatisfactory state of things, and to prevent the Chinese from forming themselves, as it were, into independent colonies on the mainland. Their secret societies would be a danger to the British Settlements, and the inland Chiefs were quite unable to control them and to keep them under. Sir ANDREW CLARKE said in the sitting of the Legislative Council, in September, 1874:—“Our mission as a civilized nation in the middle of semi-civilized people is not only that of trade, but the higher duty, which we as Englishmen owe to our flag and our Queen. By the spread of other European nations in this part of the world our interests also want a larger field of operation.”

After the punishment of the Chinese disturbers in Perak, he called the heads of the *kongsis* together to Pangkor and the result of this was that piracy and wars among the Chiefs ceased, and a year later Larut had again a population of 35,000 souls, and a revenue of \$30,000 a month. Indeed, the Chinese were beginning themselves to have enough of it, and it only required a strong leading and organising hand to settle the existing differences. One of their Chiefs was heard to exclaim at this time:—“When the British flag is seen over Perak and Larut, every Chinaman will go down on his knees and bless God.” This was probably a Go Kwan.

Now an attempt had to be made to settle the differences of the Malay Chiefs in Perak. They too all came to Pangkor and their mutual relations towards one another and towards England were defined by the Treaty of Pangkor of the 25th January, 1874. By it Perak came under English protection, a piece of land in Perak on the other side of the Krian River was joined to the Province, and the Dinding Islands and a piece of the mainland on the Pangkor River under the name of the “Dindings” were joined to Pangkor, where now for the first time an English Settlement was established, at first under the authorities at Singapore, and afterwards and now under Penang. The different States had to pay the cost of the former armed interference. At the request of the Sultan of Perak, the Straits Government sent a Resident there in 1874 to lend the Native Government “active advice and assistance.”

Selangor and Sungei Ujong, too, placed themselves under British protection, after K^a Langat, the place of residence of the Sultan of Selangor, having been punished again for the usual acts of robbery and some disturbances in the interior having been settled by the intervention of the Straits Government.

British Residents were put in Selangor in 1874, and in 1875 in Sungei Ujong.

These Residents were placed, and are still under the supervision and guidance of the Governor of the Straits, and are responsible to him.

Meanwhile it was soon evident that this settlement with the Chiefs of Perak was only satisfactory on the surface. In November, 1875, at Pasir Sala, the first Resident, Mr. BIRCH, was treacherously murdered, and the whole of Upper Perak rose against the English. The British Government was compelled to send an important expedition there in order to punish this crime and to restore order in the country. The Sultan was taken prisoner and banished, and another was appointed in his place. As there were at the same time appearances of disorder in Sungei Ujong and the Negri Sembilan, it was not till 1877 that it can be said that quiet and order returned to all these countries.

It was then that the rapid development in progress and well-being began, which has never since been disturbed by any resort to arms.

In 1883, the then Governor Sir FREDERICK WELD, after various preliminary discussions, induced the so-called Negri Sembilan to enter into an agreement and to place the Government under the protection and guidance of the Straits Government represented by a Resident. This was first carried into execution in 1887.

The independent State of Pahang, situated to the North of Singapore, refused stubbornly, till, 1888, to enter into a treaty with the Straits Government. The misgovernment and insecurity that prevailed there formed a marked contrast to the condition of things in the neighbouring State of Johor. On several occasions the relations between Pahang and Singapore itself were very strained, and the interference of France was once spoken of. However that may be, Pahang acknowledged the sovereignty of England in 1888 and signed an agreement similar to that of Johor, which, in 1885, had come definitely under British influence.

In 1892, serious disturbances took place in Pahang, which had every appearance of insurrection against the English, and led to the so-called Pahang war, which ended in the restoration of the former order of things. It is remarkable that almost exclusively Perak Police was employed against Pahang.

There came no change in the relations with Tringganu and Kelantan. The friendly influence of the English, through peaceful

means, and through the example of the well-being of the Native States, is very great there.

Outside the Straits, in 1880, a portion of North Borneo was occupied by the recently formed "North Borneo Co.," and in 1888 followed by a British protectorate over this portion of North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak. The Governor of the Straits was then appointed Consul-General in these lands, just as the Resident Councillor of Penang is, for the so-called Siamese States on the West Coast of the Malay Peninsula. This, in view of the existing ex-territorial rights, gives them great power over the thousands of Natives who call themselves British subjects, and at the same time over those States themselves, and, in my opinion, prepares the way for future annexation.

In 1885, England established herself in the Eastern portion of New Guinea. In 1886, she took possession of the Cocos or Keeling Islands to the South of Java, which were joined to the Straits and in 1888 of Christmas Island, which is also situated in the Indian Ocean.

It is my pleasant duty to add here that the Straits authorities have always maintained a most considerate and friendly attitude towards us, especially during the Achinese war.

Let us now return to the Colony as it now is. It is impossible for any one who travels now through the Protected States of the Malay Peninsula and sees everywhere the outward signs of civilization and meets with an industrious, contented population, to picture to himself what their condition was a short time ago under the Native Government. Without any military assistance, the Residents have been able to bring their residencies to a flourishing condition and continual progress. Surrounded by a staff of able Europeans and Natives, they formed part of the legislative and executive power, the State Council, or rather, with their powerful personality, they alone represented it. Indeed the articles of the above-mentioned Pangkor Treaty left great power to the discretion of these Residents, whose advice had to be sought and followed by the Princes in all questions which did not affect religion and custom, while the collection and control of the revenues, as well as the general government of the land, depended upon their advice. They were responsible for everything to the Governor of the Straits.

The present Resident of Perak has recently spoken of this as follows:—"I have spoken of the Residential system, but in real-

"ity there was no system, what there is now, has grown of experience in attempting the untried. A British Officer acting under the instructions of a distant Governor is sent to advise a Malay Ruler and his Chiefs. The Officer is told he is responsible for everything, but he is not to interfere in details. His advice must be followed, but he must not attempt to enforce it, and so on. He must keep the peace, see that justice is administered, respect vested interests, do his best for the State, and obey instructions he receives from Singapore, and with all this he is at peril to remember that he is only the adviser of the Malay Ruler. Out of this difficult position has grown the present "administration." The Residents supported by the confidence of the Governor, have made use of their power with great tact. They took measures to further and extend trade, cultivation and industry, and to develop the resources of the country, to maintain order and justice, to facilitate communication by roads, railways and telegraph, and to improve the education and instruction, and thus the material and moral condition of the people.

Sixteen years ago there was almost no roads: one had to travel on foot or by elephant, armed, and generally accompanied by an armed escort, and to take shelter in the best native house one could find. The whole population went about armed. Now there are everywhere to be found in all the States broad, hard, carriage roads, railways, and free Government buildings, schools, hospitals and police stations, and these like all other works of evident utility are being continually extended. The population has increased, and security reigns everywhere. Slavery and bondage have completely disappeared, while it was calculated that even in 1882, one-sixteenth of the population was still in slavery. Armed Natives are now never seen.

The development of the Protected and Native States was naturally accompanied by increased prosperity and progress in Penang and Singapore. This was enhanced by the contemporaneous success of the Deli tobacco cultivation, the improvement in the tin-mining industry and land cultivation on the example of its neighbours, in Kedah and other small Northern States tributary to Siam, and the late opening for trade, industry and cultivation of a greater part of British and Dutch Borneo, of Palembang, Indragiri, the Rhio Islands, Singkep, etc.

What Singapore now is many of us know from our own observation. Always extending and beautifying itself, with its splendid

harbour and docks, as a free port and centre of commerce, it draws towards itself more and more the fruits of the development of the surrounding countries. It stands in commercial importance on the same footing as Malta and Hongkong, and surpasses all the ports of the other Crown Colonies in importance. As the seat of Government, and a strongly fortified "coaling station"—ships take in in New Harbour from 1,600 to 1,800 tons of coal in four hours—it forms one of the most strategical points of the English, on the great highway of traffic between Europe, British India, and East Asia. It may be seen from the following figures how greatly it has grown:—The population of the town and island, 27 miles broad and 14 miles long, amounted in 1819 to 150 Malays, in 1821 to nearly 5,000 souls, in 1871 to nearly 100,000 and in 1891 to 185,000. The amount of import and exports was in 1823, \$12,000,000, in 1860 \$51,000,000, and in 1890 had risen to \$200,000,000.

The shipping without counting the numerous Native coast vessels, amounted in 1879 (earlier figures are not at my disposal) to 4,443 ships with a tonnage of three millions, and in 1891 to 8,339 ships with a tonnage of nearly seven millions.

Penang, which also profited from the development of the countries in her neighbourhood, increased as much in size, prosperity and well-being. The population of the town and island, 15 miles long and 9 miles broad, amounted, with Province Wellesley, in 1786 to 600 Malays, in 1812 to 27,000, in 1871 to 133,000, and in 1891 to 235,000 inhabitants. The amount of imports and exports was in 1790 \$240,000, in 1867 \$20,000,000, and in 1888 \$95,000,000. The shipping rose from 1,900 ships with a tonnage of 970,000 in 1872, to 3,400 ships with a tonnage of 1,765,000 in 1878, and 6,078 ships with a tonnage of 3,500,000 in 1890. It seems, to put the mildest construction upon it, to be a gross error to say that the trade of Penang has seriously suffered through the Achinese war. This complaint has several times been made to the English Government by Penang agitators, and unfortunately has been supported by some of the authorities. Sir FREDERICK WELD said in a lecture at the Royal Colonial Institute in London on the 10th June, 1884:—"The pepper trade of Penang with Sumatra "has suffered most seriously from the Acheneese war."

Malacca, which up till the present day has preserved its Portuguese-Dutch features, remained a station of less importance. It was thrown upon its own resources, and made but slow progress.

The development of the Negri Sembilan and of Pahang by the construction of a railway will probably result to her advantage, in view of the fact that there are no good ports in Pahang. Its population in 1817 was 20,000, in 1871, 77,000, and was in 1891, 92,000. The trade in 1826 was \$1,590,000, in 1860 \$4,600,000, and in 1889 nearly \$5,000,000. The shipping consisted in 1878 of 1,173 ships, with a tonnage of 340,000, and was improving somewhat, but not much.

Although Penang and Singapore thus took an important position, the Protected Native States afforded a no less remarkable spectacle of progress.

Let us begin with Perak. Its population was at first estimated at very different figures, but we may take it that, without counting the wild tribes living in the forests and which were reckoned to comprise 6,000 souls, the Malay population amounted to from 25,000 to 50,000, to which later 40,000 Chinese were to be added. In 1891, this had risen to 213,000, of which 100,000 were Malays.

The Revenues, arising chiefly from export duties and from the farms, amounted in 1875 to \$226,000, and increased continually till they reached in 1891 the figure of 2½ millions. The export duties upon tin are very high, and amount to from 12 to 15 per cent. There seems to be an inexhaustible supply of this metal. More than two-thirds of the tin of the whole world comes from the Straits. The output amounted in 1892 to 636,000 pikuls, representing a value of about 24 million dollars.

After paying all its debts, and the costs of the war to England, after having constructed roads and railways, and after having carried out all the other works of public utility and general advantage, Perak still possessed on the first of January, 1891, a cash surplus of \$2,000,000. It possesses among other things an excellent little force of 1,000 Sikh soldiers under English Officers. Four hundred of these, almost unaided, brought the Pahang war to an end. On receiving sudden orders, they were, in the space of one hour, ready for marching, and remained four months in the wilds of Pahang, without one of them having to be sent back during that time on account of illness. The figure for export and import was in 1876 one-and-a-half million dollars, ten years later, in 1886, fifteen, and in 1891 it had risen to 18½ millions. Perak possesses excellent ports in Port Weld (in Larut) and Telok Anson on the large and deep River Perak. Both of these are the termini of the existing railways to the tin districts.

In Selangor, which in 1891 had a population of 140,000, the number was 30,000 in 1879, and the Revenues, which in 1875 amounted to about \$100,000, had risen in 1890 to nearly two millions. The duties upon tin and the farms contributed chiefly to this. Gold mine workings are also found here, and more agriculture than in Perak. It is for this reason that the economical condition of this country is supposed to be healthier than that of Perak. Trade here increased in the same proportion, and you find here in other respects the same favourable state of things as in Perak. Selangor had on the 1st January, 1887, still a debt of \$500,000, and on the 1st of January, 1891, a cash surplus of \$720,000. The port of Selangor is Klang, the terminus of the railway to the capital of the country, Kuala Lumpur, which is situated inland. The Klang River is shallow higher up, and there is for this reason a proposal to extend the railway to the Kuala, and to make a new port there.

Of Sungei Ujong and the Negri Sembilan, with respective populations of 24 and 40 thousand (the latter having come so much later under British protection), there is not much to say, except that, with the construction of railways and roads, by the help of advances from the Straits Government, the exploiting of tin and agriculture promises them (especially the last mentioned) a good future. Jelebu, one of the Negri Sembilan, which is rich in tin mines, was, in 1885, joined to Sungei Ujong, which possesses little mineral wealth, and is thus thrown more upon agriculture. It (Sungei Ujong) had formerly not 4,000 inhabitants. The revenue in 1886 was \$120,000, in 1887 \$141,000 and in 1890 had risen to \$278,000. On 1st January, 1891, it still owed the Colony \$190,000. The port of Sungei Ujong is Port Dickson, with a splendid and safe harbour, from which a railway leads to the capital—Seram-ban.

The Negri Sembilan had, in 1886, an income of scarcely \$2,500, which, in 1890, had risen to \$170,000. On the 1st of January, 1891, it owed \$180,000 to the Colony. They are thus just beginning, but are on the right way.

Pahang, which possesses rich gold mines, with a population of 35,000, had, in 1890, an income of \$62,077 and a debt to the Colony of \$372,000, to which are to be added the cost of the last war.

It remains only to mention Johor. This little State with its population of about 100,000 under its enlightened and energetic

Sultan, surrounded by a capable staff of Europeans, has derived every advantage from its position in the immediate neighbourhood of Singapore. Chinese capital and labour have been attracted there and have brought it to a state of great prosperity and wealth, especially through the cultivation of pepper, gambier and tapioca, as minerals are not found there. The Sultan stays a good deal in Europe, and returned a short time ago from England.

I can add here that the Chinese, who have done everything under British guidance, and still do so, are the pioneers of progress in the Malay Peninsula and in the Settlements. Sir CHARLES DILKE says of this in his "Problems of Greater Britain":—"Our great success in the Malay Peninsula has lain in enlisting upon our side the warm and ever enthusiastic co-operation of the Chinese. "In no part of the world can we point to more obvious results from good government than throughout the Malay Peninsula, where England, in fact, presides over a federation of Malay Princes, to whom we have taught the art of success, but to whose former subjects we have added a vast population of Chinese. "The future of Malaya lies in the development of great natural, mineral and agricultural wealth by patient Chinese labour."

This is the case too in Kedah and in the more northern Siamese States, in some of which Penang Chinese have been able to get themselves appointed Rajas. Chinese, too, are members of the Legislative Council, of the Municipal Councils, and of the State Councils. There can be no doubt as to the future of the Malay Peninsula, outside the towns of Penang and Singapore, under an enlightened and liberal-minded Government.

We have seen that in the Native States, and also in Kedah, the tin industry has been the principal one of the country up till now. However, considerable experiments have been made in the cultivation of rice, pepper, sugar, tapioca, gambier, tobacco, coffee, tea, cocoa, etc., but by far not on a sufficiently large scale to be regarded as a permanent form of cultivation. This can be said of the islands of Singapore and Penang, and of the districts in their immediate neighbourhood—the Province, Malacca, Johor and Kedah—as regards sugar, pepper, gambier and tapioca; in Perak too the cultivation of sugar may be regarded as permanent, but the Straits planters have much to learn from Java as regards cheap and increased production. Cheap transport, local markets, and a low rate of exchange are factors in their favour. Arabian and especially Liberian coffee has been started in all the States. Perak tea has

been very favourably judged in the London market. Pepper is planted everywhere on a small scale; tapioca grows especially in Sungei Ujong and the Negri Sembilan. Experiments with silk worm binding have been made in Perak, and are said to have given good results. Experiments with tobacco, on the other hand, have not been successful. Coco-nuts, betel-nuts, fruits, especially pine-apples, the preserving of which has become a considerable industry, and vegetables are cultivated everywhere and supply chiefly local requirements.

In the Straits Settlements, one-third is cultivated, and in the Native States scarcely one two-hundredth part. There is thus an abundance of waste land waiting to be developed by capital and enterprise. The Government does its best to encourage this, being convinced of the desirability of obtaining a more permanent form of revenue from agriculture, in view of the uncertainty of tin, the supply of which must some time be exhausted. This has already happened, for instance, in Larut. The income from the opium farm is also dependent upon the tin mines. Land can be obtained everywhere. The first pioneers in the Native States received pieces of land of 1,000 acres (one acre is about $1\frac{3}{4}$ *bouws*) quite free. Those who came later paid a rent of 20 cents an acre after the second year, for opening up the land, or three dollars per acre at once, which made them owners of the land. The Government can demand $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as export duty upon the produce.

The population of the English part was in 1891, 512,342 for the three Settlements; for the Native States with Johor 518,644; thus about 1,000,000 in all.

The area of the three Settlements is 1,310 English square miles, and of the Protected States 35,509 square miles. There are thus in the three Settlements, counting the towns of course, nearly 400, and in the States only 15 inhabitants to the English square mile.

From this it may be seen that the Malay Peninsula is thinly inhabited, and but little cultivated. By far the largest proportion of this population consists of Chinese, who live at the mines, in the cultivated districts, and especially in the towns along the coasts. Fishing is practised by them on a large scale, and is an important means of existence, and a considerable branch of industry.

Malays live further away from the towns, and supply, just, as in Deli, the daily necessities of the industrial centres, among others ataps and other building materials for the East coast of Sumatra. Cattle rearing is also in their hands, and is a very considerable in-

dustry, while formerly jungle produce was collected and exported by them on such a large scale that it degenerated into depredation. In Perak, for instance, the export of gutta had to be forbidden to prevent the further destruction of the gum trees. In Perak and Kedah there is an old population settled there centuries before Europeans came. In Selangor and Sungei Ujong, and especially in the Negri Sembilan, much younger settlements are to be found. They are chiefly from Java, Borneo, Celebes, the highlands of Padang, Batta, Korintji, Jambi and elsewhere in Sumatra. Two-thirds of the Malay population of these States were originally Netherlands Indian subjects. In the beginning of the 18th century a settlement of Bugis from Goa in Celebes established themselves in Selangor.

If agriculture is to be extended as in the case of mining, labour must be imported, chiefly Chinese and Kling, and this is the great difficulty. The Government accordingly spares no pains to meet the planter and assist him in this respect. However, as long as the tin mines last, the Chinese will prefer that kind of work, just as is the case with tobacco on the East coast of Sumatra.

The Government of the Straits Settlements depends directly, as we have seen, upon the Mother-country, and is carried on by a Governor appointed by the Queen, supported by a Legislative and Executive Council. The majority of the members of the Legislative Council—the “Official members”—are so by virtue of their position. They form the Executive Council. The unofficial members, who form the minority, are private individuals, and are partly nominated by the Government and partly elected by the Chambers of Commerce. All bills, all important Government measures, as well as the budget, are laid before the Council and dealt with, and must, after approval, be sanctioned by the Government of the Mother-country; although the official members nearly always vote with the Government, and the opposition can thus have but little influence in any other direction, still its existence has this indisputable advantage, that all Government matters are treated, discussed and decided upon publicly, and this compels the Government to consider carefully what it brings forward, and abstain from everything that will not stand the test of publicity.

Young officials, after passing an examination in England, are sent out as “Cadets” to the Straits, and are there employed in most of the Government positions, except legal, military, and some technical ones. The Judges come from other places. The Colony

does not possess its own army or fleet. The Colony pays a fixed contribution towards the support of the garrison of the Straits which belongs to the English army. The men-of-war of the China squadron visit from time to time different parts of the Colony, whenever it is necessary or desirable. The excellently organized Police, with European officers and staff, consists of Europeans, Sikhs, and Malays, and fulfils all requirements.

In Penang and Malacca, the Government is represented by Resident Councillors, and though the Governor occupies this place in Singapore, affairs are usually managed, to a certain extent, by the Colonial Secretary, who is the highest official after the Governor. Under these are Magistrates, Collectors and District Officers, who with all others except the Municipal officials are nominated by the Governor. The paid Presidents of the Municipal Council are appointed by the Governor, just as the Residents are in the Native States. One-half of its members are appointed by the Governor, and the other half elected by the voting members of the community.

The officials in the Native States are appointed by the Sultan after consultation with the Resident. The budgets and laws in these States have to be sanctioned only by the Governor. The Police are under the direct orders of the Resident.

The Revenues of the Colony, which are contributed to by the three Settlements alone, and are derived from the farms, especially for the sale of opium, stamp fees, land rents, harbour and port duties, fines, &c., amounted in 1868 to about one-and-a-half, and in 1890 to four million dollars. At the end of 1891, the Colony possessed a surplus of two and a quarter million dollars of which, it had but one-and-a-half million as advances to Municipal bodies and Native States.

The Municipal revenues reach about the following amounts yearly: —Singapore, \$500,000; Penang, \$300,000; Malacca, \$30,000. They are derived from assessment of houses, local land rents, taxes upon vehicles, horses and dogs, the letting of Municipal property, such as markets and sheds, and finally the proceeds of passes, licenses, certificates, water rates, &c.

From these are paid the salaries of the Municipal Officials, the contributions to the Colonial Police, the cost of the keeping up of buildings and other institutions, the public roads and bridges, draining and cleansing, street lighting, the fire brigade, &c.

We have thus in the immediate neighbourhood of our posses-

sions (where also changes in administrative matters, and decentralisation are being prepared) a remarkable instance although upon a small scale, of administrative and financial decentralisation which works successfully—a central Government with central revenues and budget for the whole Colony, with three Municipal administrations for Singapore, Penang and Malacca, and the five separate Governments of the Protected States, besides the State of Johor, which is independent as regards administration and where everything also goes as well as one can wish.

Still neither here all is perfect, and complaints occur. The Settlements complain that the Protected States do not contribute directly to the Colonial Treasury, although they enjoy the advantages which are derived from the order of things that has been called into existence through the agency of the Straits Settlements.

This is still less the case with Johor. It is probable that these States will, after some time, either be incorporated in the Colony, or will form with it a federation. Circumstances, too, such as the recent complications between France and Siam, may soon lead the way (which is already prepared) to the annexation of the Siamese Malay States, from Kedah to Mergui and Tringganu with Kelantan all of which are rich in gold and lead. In a speech to the Legislative Council in Singapore in 1887, Sir FREDERICK WELD, while discussing the policy of the last years, said:—"This policy will "extend itself from Burma southwards, and from Pahang northwards until it includes the whole Peninsula and embraces also "those dominions which are now nominally under Siam."

Other parties, for instance, in Penang, insist upon a further separation in matters of administration, so that the contributions of one Settlement towards the central Treasury may be employed more in and for that Settlement than is the case at present. Out of the central revenues are paid the expenses for salaries and pensions of officials, the cost of the military garrison, the expenses of Justice and Police, the medical service, education, harbours, coast lights and beacons, roads and bridges outside the Municipality, gaols, hospitals, schools, Government buildings, Colonial vessels, etc., etc. Penang pretends that Singapore, the lion town, also gets the lion's share, much more than is proportionate to her contributions. Thence in Penang a cry for Home Rule. It may be seen from this, that however much decentralisation there may be there will be always parts which consider themselves placed in a disadvantageous position with others.

That many affairs are better arranged by our older Colonial Government than by our English neighbours, is recognised by Englishmen of authority, for instance, by KENSINGTON (1892), MONEY and BORS. I need only mention the government of the Native population through the direct agency of their chiefs—a system that is followed in the Native States.

A bonus of \$500 has recently been offered to any officials in the Straits who learn and shew a knowledge of our language, in order to make the Dutch Colonial literature more accessible to the English.

But there is, I think, also something for us to learn from our neighbours, especially now when we seem to have arrived at an epoch of transition, and therefore I think it would be advantageous if our officials were to go there a little more than they do now, and enquire into and compare the state of things there with that of our own Colonies, and if such visits were not only facilitated but also encouraged. The new regulations on leave are already a step in that direction.

They would remark, among other things, how the advancement of British trade is the chief aim with every Government, in the Straits or elsewhere, wherever the British flag waves, and that every governing official, however much he may talk of “humanity and civilisation,” devotes his attention in the first place to this.

Trade has been the chief factor in making the greatness of that “Greater Britain” that Sir CHARLES DILKE has sketched for us.

Every official is impregnated with this idea, and nothing strikes an observant and unbiassed visitor to the English Colonies so much as the zealous and indefatigable devotion of all, each in his own circle to the furtherance of this greatness of the British Empire, even when such endeavours are frequently made at a sacrifice of personal interests and comfort.

This is the cause of the great national pride that Englishmen possess, which may appear silly and narrow to the foreigner, but fills them however with that prodigious self-confidence, which leads to great deeds.

This British Empire forms a body of which England is the heart. Whatever forms of Government the different parts may assume, as regards the important points of protection, free trade, Imperial federation, still every man in England follows with interest the events in these parts, and every one outside of it thinks with love, reverence and pride of his “old England” and always goes back there. We might well learn that from them. How often do we

hear the Motherland spoken of depreciatingly and ungratefully in the Colonies? What little interest again, do most Dutchmen show in Colonial matters?

Thanks to the circumstance that young people in England are not unnecessarily crammed with all sorts of learning, but try to acquire what is useful for a definite sphere of work, so that most of them are behind other nations in so-called general development they have always time for healthy exercise, for their "sport," and thus become accustomed to privation, are strong, hardy, enterprising, sober, and little given to sensual enjoyment, pleasure-seeking or excessive sentimentality.

Thus in different English Colonies may be seen how old and young, high and low, ladies and gentlemen, and even natives, take part in this "sport," and how the courage, strength, agility, dexterity and "pluck" of their European rulers excites the admiration and especially the sympathy of the Natives.

Indeed the intercourse between the higher and lower grades in both the official and military classes is quite different to what it is with us. There is much more mutual confidence and comradeship in it, more good nature, if I may so speak. The same may be observed in the intercourse with the Natives. There is one law for all without distinction of race or religion, and it is quickly acted upon.

Good officials in the Straits are kept as long as possible in the same posts, and when they go on leave, which occurs frequently (so that they keep touch with the Mother-country, and do not become Indians) the post is generally filled up by an acting officer until they return. They are thus altogether intimate with the duties attaching to that post, and are quite absorbed, in the interest that are entrusted to them, which they can and often do watch during their leave. From 1878 to 1889 there was one Resident in Perak, Sir HUGH LOW, and from 1885 to 1890, I knew four different Residents in the much more important Residency of the East Coast of Sumatra; they had no time to become duly acquainted with the country.

In conclusion, I must finish with a word that has no direct bearing upon the subject under discussion, but which, I feel, I must not leave unsaid.

The same policy that Sir F. WELD described as the goal to be aimed at on the Malay Peninsula is consolidating itself also in North Borneo, in New Guinea, and is surrounding our Archipelago

elsewhere with a girdle of English possessions.

This and other circumstances mentioned in this paper should remind us as a small nation, but with rich and large Colonies, and as the second colonial power of the times in which we live, to caution and urge us to move with the times.

In our East Indian possessions, where there are such great resources, and there is such a rich field for work, we shall, I think, accomplish better results, if we recognize more generally, that the time is past for maintaining our power by artificial means, and if we give our governing officials (especially those outside of Java) opportunities, each in his own sphere, to act more independently and thus, with the means at their disposal in their sphere, by decentralization, to further the development of the immeasurable resources of the country, to the good of the population, and the welfare of the Mother-country.

This can then be, in the words of Mr. VAN GENNEP, in the sitting of the First Chamber of the 28th December, the beginning of a new period, of which we may expect the best results in the fields of politics, economics, and finance.

Steam and electricity have abolished distances. The press discusses everything. The Natives know what occurs elsewhere and thus as a Madurese Chief once expressed himself "by building our forts in the hearts of the Natives" we can strengthen ourselves and meet the future with confidence.

DISCUSSION

ON

MR. KRUYT'S PAPER.

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MR. G. E. V. L. VAN ZUYLEN.—As none of the gentlemen present seem disposed to discuss any of the points raised in Mr. KRUYT's excellent address, may I be permitted to ask the honourable reader of the address one question as to a matter of detail, viz., how matters stand at present as regards the digging of a canal through the Isthmus of Krah? There were two plans in connection with the isthmus—one to dig a canal through it, and the other to construct a railway for ships across it as has been done in Canada. Is either of these plans still spoken of?

MR. KRUYT.—I believe the plans have been given up. Anything of this kind would not be in accordance with the interests of England, and as the influence of England there has greatly increased it is not likely that the scheme will be brought into prominence again. There is a Chinese Raja there who is Penang born and a British subject. He will take good care that nothing happens that can be in conflict with the wishes of the British.

MR. VAN ZUYLEN.—I ask the question, as I imagine that if the canal were dug it would be a matter of no small importance to us.

MR. KRUYT.—I agree with you that it could be of some importance to us.

MR. P. J. VAN HOUTEN.—I should like to ask Mr. KRUYT the following question. What does the honourable gentleman think about Pulau Weh? Can this port attain to any importance? Could it in future be detrimental to Penang and Singapore? I doubt it myself. It is useless to make of it a coaling-station for Ombilien coals which cannot be employed in every kind of steamship traffic. It is necessary therefore to bring in the first place Newcastle and Cardiff coals there suitable for long voyages. This, however, can only be done at a great cost, as transport to Pulau Weh would be dearer than to Singapore, because in the latter port ships would be sure of getting a cargo. This would not be the case at Pulau Weh. I do not therefore anticipate much in the future

for Pulau Weh. Is that opinion shared by the honourable gentleman?

MR. KRUYT.—I also do not anticipate any great future for Pulau Weh. The first condition necessary for the development of Pulau Weh is wanting. First of all an orderly state of things in Acheen must be established, and then with careful management—it being of course taken for granted that there is a coaling depôt there—the pepper trade of Acheen might gradually be concentrated there. It is of course a matter of indifference to the Chinese whether they sell their pepper at Penang or at Pulau Weh, provided they get a proper profit. But the Achinese ask for more. They do not go to Penang to sell alone, but also to buy. They take this opportunity of making a little journey. A journey of this kind to Penang is a pleasure-trip; they go to the *wayang*, to the Malay comedy, and to other places. When they are able to find all this at Pulau Weh, it might become the central port for North Sumatra. Would Pulau Weh then become an important port for European ships?

The only foreign ships to whose interest it might be to take coals at Pulau Weh at dearer prices are the Russian and French men-of-war and perhaps some tea-steamers as the island lies in a better position than Singapore as a half-way place on the *route* between Europe and North China. I do not believe, however, that Pulau Weh will ever become the trade emporium that some people imagine.

MR. VAN ZUYLEN.—If I have understood you rightly, you mean to say that if Achinese affairs are put in a better state this port might be one of importance for North Sumatra.

MR. KRUYT.—Yes, if the business is taken seriously in hand and the circumstance is not lost sight of that the Achinese must find the same facilities and the same treatment as he has always met with in the Straits.

MR. W. ELOUT VAN SOUTERWONDE.—If I venture, Mr. President, to put a question with reference to one of the many subjects touched upon by the honourable gentleman, I must first say that his excellent address has interested me in the highest degree. One subject touched upon by him especially struck me, viz., the prosperous condition of the Chinese in the Straits and their influence there. We have heard that Sir CHARLES DILKE in his "Greater Britain" praised the Chinese for having been the means of developing the Straits and we have been told of a Chinaman, born in the

Straits, who has become a Raja of one of the Native tribes. Now I should like to hear from the honourable gentleman, especially with regard to the opium-farm, if the influence of the Chinese is about the same in his opinion over the Natives as it is in Java. Further, I should like to ask if the other farms are in the hands of the Chinese, and if the Government has ever experienced any trouble from the presence of the Chinese in the Straits in such large numbers. If I am not mistaken it has been more than once necessary to take active measures against the secret societies? The Chinese have, I believe, in the Straits their own chiefs to a certain extent, but I gather from what Mr. KRUYT has told us that they have the same position as regards the Courts of Justice as Europeans. I should very much like to be further enlightened upon this matter. It is, Mr. President, certainly somewhat indiscreet on my part to put all these questions, but the Chinese seem to be so much better received on the Peninsula and so much more favourably judged than in other places they have gone to, that it would be most interesting to learn something more on the subject.

Mr. KRUYT.—The Chinese in the Straits are perfectly free except the Chinese secret societies, which are under strict surveillance. Those who do anything contrary to the regulations in this matter are dealt with very severely, and the leaders are often banished to China. The farms are all in the hands of the Chinese. The native Malay population is small compared to the Chinese. The Chinese are not under their own chiefs, but are under the same laws as the rest of the population. The Chinese have a high sense of their own worth. I have often observed that people from our Colonies, for instance, naval officers and officials, were annoyed that the Chinese did not shew them a sufficient politeness, for instance, that they did not make way for them. I have always found the Chinese most polite, but it depends upon how one treats them. They possess, and one should not forget this, a feeling of equality.

The authorities in British India and in the Straits would not like to see the opium revenues decrease, as these form the most important source of revenue and if they fell off the whole financial system would fall into confusion. In Penang, there is a Chinese bank. The only European who is there is one of the junior clerks. The bank is in prosperous circumstances, due, most likely, to the activity of the directors. The Chinese are from early morning till late in the evening on the spot, while Europeans open late and close early. If you come to their place after closing-time, you hear

very soon "Come to-morrow, the office is open at 10 o'clock." The Chinese look on Penang and Singapore as Chinese places, the administration of which is left to the English.

Mr. G. A. DE LANGE.—Do the Chinese live in different quarters?

Mr. KRUYT.—No.

Mr. ELOUT VAN SOUTERWONDE.—Are other farms besides the opium farm in the hands of the Chinese?

Mr. KRUYT.—There are in the Straits somewhat the same farms as we have—*gambling*, pawn-houses, spirits, etc. All these are in the hands of the Chinese.

Mr. T. H. DER KINDEREN.—I should like to hear from the honourable gentleman something as to the legal position of the Chinese, not only in Penang and Singapore, but in the whole of the Straits Settlements where they form a considerable portion of the population. Are they under the English law as regards civil matters as well as regards criminal law? How are they situated particularly as regards their personal rights? For instance, by what restrictions and rules are their marriages governed? How do they stand as regards their laws of inheritance? Are their own customs and institutions, as they are in China, followed, or are the English laws adhered to?

Mr. KRUYT.—The civil and criminal law is the same for all; all come before the same Judge. The place is full of lawyers. The Chinese are, by nature, fond of litigation. For a trifle, for a fowl that is not worth a guilder, they will run to a lawyer and pay \$50 to fight the matter out. As regards marriages, etc., Chinese customs are adhered to, but there is an institution there that is unknown in Java, viz., the Chinese Protectorate. The Protector of Chinese, is as it were, the head of the Chinese. Assisted by a good staff, he looks after everything that concerns the Chinese, for instance, in matters connected with the rights of inheritance in which Chinese customs are followed as far as they do not conflict with the usages of civilised nations. This is a good institution.

Mr. DER KINDEREN.—There are then no special Judges for Natives and Chinese?

Mr. KRUYT.—No.

Mr. DER KINDEREN.—How is justice administered in the States where a Resident is at the head of affairs?

Mr. KRUYT.—The State Court is there with a Chief Magistrate and in smaller places there are District Courts with Magistrates

at the head supported by Native assessors. There, justice is administered according to the same laws and regulations as in the Straits, but with reference to "*adat*" and religion. In this respect, Natives and Chinese are on the same footing as Europeans.

MR. DER KINDEREN.—Is the adoption of children regulated by law? Are the usages of China followed?

MR. KRUYT.—I cannot say that. I know there are Chinese who adopt children but I do not know what the laws are as regards the adoption of children.

MR. VAN HOUTEN.—Mr. President, there is still another question that I should like to ask the honourable gentleman. It is said that three-fourths of the trade of Penang is with Sumatra. That is perhaps exaggerated on our side, but if half of it is with Sumatra it is important enough, and for that reason I should like to ask the honourable gentleman if, in his opinion, it is not possible to divert a part of that trade to our territory by making either Belawan or Telok Semawe free ports, so that we could have great depôts where ships could unload, and what was sold could be shipped to the different districts in the neighbourhood.

Perhaps other means might be found and employed, as the portion of Penang is naturally very strong. The commercial houses there are now firmly established and have a fixed business with all kinds of steam and sailing vessels; they have their agents and correspondents everywhere, so that it will be difficult to win trade away from them. However, I think the matter is worth some exertion, as we should get not only the export trade into our hands but the import trade too, which is certainly not less important.

MR. KRUYT.—Pepper can certainly be brought elsewhere. Since the establishment of the Koninklijke Nederlandsche Paketvaartmaatschappij, a step has been made in that direction, where the freights are not opposed to it. It is established that cheap freights are the most important factor in this matter, and now that the ships of the Paketvaartmaatschappij visit the whole island of Sumatra, this is, in a great measure, in their hands. Trade generally goes where it is served most quickly, most easily and most cheaply. Where these factors exist, viz., cheap, quick and easy dealing, there will trade certainly be attracted. As soon as articles can be obtained as cheap and as good from Batavia as from Penang, they may be brought from there to Deli. The creation of free ports will, I believe, be of little assistance. The declaring of Belawan to be a free port will not divert trade. Many

years must pass before trade can be diverted. The great advantage of the ports in the Straits is that they are centres of trade, and that they lie on the great highway of traffic and close by. No day passes without ten, twelve or fifteen steamers going in and out of Penang and Singapore.

Mr. VAN HOUTEN.—After the last answer of the honourable gentleman, I may observe that I do not see any great objection to the low import duties levied at our Indian custom-houses—one can always leave wares in the depôt—but I think that at all places where custom duties are levied the formalities which one has to comply with during importing and exporting prevent trade from being drawn thither.

Mr. KRUYT.—The journey from Belawan to Batavia lasts three or four days, and if there were need for it more steamers would soon be put upon this run. As soon as the planters in Deli can provide themselves as well and as cheaply from Batavia they will probably get things from Java. But this condition does not exist at present. The nearer ports in the Straits offer also greater facilities in other respects.

The PRESIDENT.—As no one wishes to make any further remarks, I close the meeting with a vote of thanks to Mr. KRUYT for his interesting and instructive address.

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